

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ink feeding rate control method for a printing machine includes a step of determining, from image data used in recording images, an average of image area ratios of
5 images in areas on prints corresponding to ink keys, a step of determining, from the image data, an average of image area ratios of images in positions aligned in a printing direction with the detecting patches (i.e. rectangular areas having substantially the same width as the detecting patches and
10 extending in the printing direction) printed in the areas on the prints corresponding to the ink keys, and a step of correcting the reference information based on the average of image area ratios of the images in the areas on the prints corresponding to the ink keys, and the average of image area
15 ratios of the images in the positions aligned in the printing direction with the detecting patches printed on the prints.